

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 MC-01

IGA-01 AID-05 PM-03 DODE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 L-02 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

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O R 031827Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8966

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ'S VIEWS ON F-86 SALES AND HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 4958

(B) TEGUCIGALPA 4960

(C) STATE 000481

1. IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING,
JANUARY 3RD, CHIEF OF STATE OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO REITERATED
HIS COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUANCE (QUE SIGAN EN MARCHA) OF
THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS. HIS DECLARATION
GENERALLY PARALLELED THOSE MADE TO ME ON NOVEMBER 15
(SEE REFERENCE B). HOWEVER, THIS TIME HE UNDERLINED SEVERAL
POINTS NOT PREVIOUSLY STRESSED BY HIM. (A) IF TALKS ARE TO BE
BROUGHT TO FRUITFUL CONCLUSION IT MUST BE DONE AT THE CHIEF
OF STATE LEVEL. (B) PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE SEEMS TO BE
FAVORABLE NOW SO TALKS MUST BE CARRIED OUT PROMPTLY.

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(C) PRESIDENT MOLINA AGREES.

2. GENERAL LOPEZ TOLD ME HE WAS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ABOVE POINTS HAD BEEN REAFFIRMED AS LATE AS THIS MORNING IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MOLINA.

3. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED SALE OF F86'S GENERAL LOPEZ DETAILED PRESSURES HE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FROM ARMED FORCES OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A DO-NOTHING ATTITUDE ON PART OF LOPEZ WITH REGARD TO NATIONAL DEFENSE. OTHER BONE OF CONTENTION STEMS FROM INABILITY OF GOH TO RESPOND TO OVERTURES MADE BY "SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS" FOR SALE OF CERTAIN ARMAMENTS BECAUSE THEY ARE APPARENTLY TIED TO RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. GENERAL LOPEZ SAYS MILITARY CLAIMS THAT USG POSITION IS ABSOLUTE BLOCKADE SINCE "IT WILL NOT SELL NOR WILL IT PERMIT SALE".

4. COMMENT: IN LATER CONVERSATION I WOULD GATHER FROM LOPEZ'S REMARKS THAT THE "OTHER GOVERNMENTS" INCLUDE SAUDI ARABIA AND CHINA. END COMMENT.

5. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID HE WAS ANNOYED AT THE WAY AEROTRADE HAD APPROACHED THEM BECAUSE HE FELT OFFER HAD BEEN MADE UNDER FALSE PRETENSES. THAT IS, AEROTRADE LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD LICENSE TO CARRY DEAL THROUGH TO COMPLETION. ALTHOUGH GOH DOWN PAYMENT IS STILL DEPOSITED IN MIAMI BANK, GENERAL LOPEZ NOW FEELS HE WOULD RATHER DEAL DIRECTLY WITH USG THAN WITH AEROTRADE. AS STATED, REFERENCE B, EMBASSY BELIEVE LATTER (AEROTRADE DEAL) PREFERABLE FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT.

6. ON SUBJECT OF PUBLIC OPINION GENERAL LOPEZ OFFERED THAT THAT, IN SPITE OF RAVAGES OF HURRICANE FIFI, THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IS SACRED COW IN HONDURAS AND THAT ALL CABINET AGREES. I LEFT GENERAL LOPEZ WITH A REITERATION OF OUR CONCERNS AS SET FOURTH IN PARAGRAPH ONE, REFERENCE B. GENERAL LOPEZ ASSURED ME THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY CALL MOLINA TO TRY TO SET UP MEETING ON OR ABOUT 15 JANUARY.

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